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the contrast between the much despised, impoverished Irish of the foreign "lot" in 1830, and their highly prosperous descendants of the present time.

R.J. P.

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**A Son of the Hidalgos.** By Ricardo León, translated by Catalina Paez. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Co. Pp. xvi+296.

Some classics of old Spain have become so familiar to Americans that they form part of our own literature, but modern Spanish fiction is almost unknown. This is partly due to the change which has come over Spain in the generation just now passing. Spain entered a new era in her history after the war of '98; a period characterized by pessimism on the one hand, and frantic seeking of things modern on the other. Many Spaniards purposely tried to forget their past and its splendid heritage and to start as though nothing before counted for aught. The foolishness of this tendency, as well as the futility of attempting to live entirely in the past, is the theme of this work. The author has pictured in the soul of his hero this national struggle and makes us understand what it has meant to Spain.

The work is not merely a piece of fiction—it is an allegory, revealing the souls of people; its publication brought fame overnight to its writer. Mrs. McManus has translated it in a way possible only by one to whom both languages are natural, and who possesses independent literary ability.

The story is divided into five episodes, called "Journeys," each dealing with a stage in the progress of the hero, and so of the Spanish people. There is, of course, a love story running through it, but it is no ordinary love story. But one must read the book to appreciate its many charms, and to understand the service Mrs. McManus has rendered in giving it to us in English form.

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**The Dominican Lay Brother.** By Very Rev. V. F. O'Daniel, O. P., S. T. M. New York: The Bureau of the Holy Name. Pp. 174.

Father O'Daniel's purpose in writing this little book is to answer the question he asks in his concluding chapter, "Why

do men become lay brothers in this age?" (p. 164). The question, he says, "is born of a worldly spirit" and he gives the only Catholic answer.

After sketching very briefly something of Dominican history, he outlines the purpose of lay brothers in general and in that order in particular of which he is treating. The consecration of toil which is the chief end of this vocation, he shows to be apostolic in character, and because there are certain pieces of manual labour which must be performed in every household, he brings out forcibly the really immense contribution of the lay-brother, who by doing them leaves the priests of the Order freer to carry on their work of preaching and study. In these days when labour is insisting upon its rights and its dignity, the Dominican lay-brother is able to teach it much in both directions.

Although the majority of their subjects have been comparatively unlearned, some have been men of high scholastic attainment, who sought this position through genuine humility and a shrinking from the responsibilities of the priesthood. Above all things (and what is more essential) the brothers have been for the most part, men of deep piety and great holiness. Sketches of those who have been accorded the honours of the altar by the Church are given, and a long catalogue of martyrs from their ranks forms a valuable part of the book. There are also chapters dealing with the lives of many lay-brothers in the United States and on the novitiate and the routine of their daily life.

One learns here much of these lives "hid with Christ in God." Through their art, their architecture, their manual toil, the brothers have been as much preachers of the Gospel as those who have proclaimed it by word of mouth. Indeed, some of the exquisite Churches and stained glass they have made continues to set forth Christ crucified ages after the tongues of the eloquent preachers of the Order have gone to dust.

Father O'Daniel has ventured into a virgin field in history and we can but hope that he, or some other, will pursue the matter further.

FLOYD KEELER.